

Executive Registry

11-7983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, CIA

SUBJECT: Proposal of Dr. Joseph Strayer for the
Establishment of an R.O.T.C. for the
Civilian Foreign Service Operations of
the U. S. Government

REFERENCE: Letter to DCI from Joseph R. Strayer, dated
8 August 1959, forwarding his proposal for
an R.O.T.C. for foreign operations (E.R. 11-
6804)

1. You may wish to advise the Director that an informal discussion was held with Dr. Strayer on 1 September 1959 concerning subject proposal. Present were the Director and Deputy Director of Personnel, and [redacted] representative of the Director of Training. At the windup of the discussion Dr. Strayer indicated that our exposition of the Agency's personnel needs and our suggestions and criticisms concerning his proposal had been most helpful and that he would now proceed to explore the matter further with the military representative on the Princeton faculty and other officials concerned. He indicated that we would be advised of further development, if any, later this fall.

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2. In the event the Director may be interested in the tenor of the discussion and the major views and tentative conclusions reached, they are presented briefly in subsequent paragraphs.

3. As you may recall, the original proposal of Dr. Strayer contemplated the establishment of a Reserve Training Program for the foreign operations of the non-military branches of Government (State, CIA, USIA, ICA, etc.). This program would be essentially similar to the R.O.T.C. programs of the Armed Services and participation therein would be the equivalent and in lieu of any obligation for military duty. Without going into the myriad points of the discussion, I believe two significant, if tentative, conclusions were reached. These were:


- (a) It would appear to be most desirable, if not essential, for legal, political, and psychological reasons, that any R.O.T.C. program specializing in the foreign operations of the Government be developed within the legal and administrative framework of existing R.O.T.C.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

Personnel

programs. It is believed that the Armed Services themselves have a significant requirement for reserve officers with language skills and academic training in foreign affairs and might welcome this adjustment to the normal R.O.T.C. program. If such should be the case, the needs of civilian agencies such as CIA, State, etc., could be satisfied by subordinate arrangements with the Department of Defense. Specific numbers of students in the "foreign affairs" R.O.T.C. units could be earmarked for the civilian agencies. At an appropriate time specific individuals could be identified for specific agencies. After graduation and commissioning they would report on detail to their respective agency for their prescribed tour of active duty.

- (b) The second major conclusion was that CIA could not favorably view the program as a means to develop a reserve corps. Its major value to CIA would appear to be the opportunity to engage in selective recruitment from a group of young men evidencing interests and aptitudes in educational fields related to CIA foreign operations. Even as a recruitment source CIA would necessarily limit its acceptance to individuals who evidence outstanding qualifications, strong career interest and who would agree to serve at least four to five years. The latter requirement is based upon CIA experience that, in addition to formal academic training, a year to two years of special training and exposure to operations at Headquarters desk level is a prerequisite to effective utilization in overseas operations. The normal period of obligatory military service of the successful participant in R.O.T.C. programs is thus too short to be effectively used by CIA as a full training, evaluation and selection program. To induce selected participants in the R.O.T.C. programs to accept a longer period of service, it might be necessary to provide additional inducements (tuition grants, etc.) in return for commensurate obligations to study designated subjects and to serve a longer obligatory period.


Gordon M. Stewart
Director of Personnel

STAT

Mr. Joseph R. Strayer
Department of History
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Strayer:


Mr. Stewart and I greatly enjoyed our recent discussion concerning your proposal for the establishment of a Reserve Training Program for the foreign operations of the U. S. Government.

In response to your question to Mr. Dulles as to whether the "Government would be interested in such a program", it is our speculation that "Government" would be interested because there is an increasing need in Government for young people who are educationally oriented toward international affairs. We believe this to be true not only of the nonmilitary agencies and services but also of the military services themselves. Although we do not presume to reflect the views of the Armed Services, it seems very probable that developments in modern concepts of warfare permit, if they do not call for, increasing academic diversification in the training of reserve officers. Modification of the R.O.T.C. training courses on numerous campuses for particularly qualified students would, therefore, seem to be the ideal way in which to meet the changing needs of the times.

With respect to your specific question as to whether CIA would find your proposal of value, we pointed out in our discussion with you that any participation by CIA in such a program would necessarily have to be carried out through other departments of Government and would be quite limited in numbers, and oriented exclusively to the training and recruitment of selected individuals with career employment as our basic objective.

For your further information, we attach the summary of our discussion which we provided for Mr. Dalles' information. We look forward to hearing further from you on this matter after you have explored it further.

Sincerely,


Deputy Director of Personnel

Enclosure

Distribution:

- O & 1 - Addressee
- ✓ 1 - Executive Officer, CIA
- 1 - Mr. Tracy Barnes
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O & VI - Addressee

- 1 - Mr. Tracy Barnes
- 1 - Mr. Joseph Strayer
- 1 - D/Pers Chrono
- 1 - DD/Pers

Gordon M. Stewart
Director of Personnel

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